TITLE OF INVENTION

Multiple Action Buzz Blade Fishing Lure

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

[0003] This invention pertains to fishing lures. More particularly, this invention pertains to fishing lures having multiple movements during trolling.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] Artificial fishing lures are widely utilized for catching fish in small and large bodies of water. It is recognized that an artificial fishing lure can be made to attract fish when the lure provides movement through the water, and/or noise during trolling in order to duplicate movements of live bait. Fishing lures having spinners that are reciprocated or rotated during trolling have come to be known in the trade as a "spinner bait" or "buzz bait."

[0005] A typical spinner type of fishing lure includes elongated spoons or spinners that are connected a distance ahead of a trailing imitation fish head and hook. The spoons or spinners will flutter or wobble as the lure is pulled through the water. To minimize contact with the hook, the spoons or spinners must be

extended an adequate spaced distance angled away from the head and hook. Due to the spoons or spinners being spaced laterally and angled away from the head and hook, the hook and/or spoons or spinners may be readily fouled on vegetation gathering therebetween during trolling near a shoreline. Lures having elongated spoons or spinners are preferably operated underwater due to potential separation of the spoons or spinners if persistently contacting with the surface of the water. Further, to induce submerging of the lure under the water surface, fishing lures having elongated spoons or spinners typically include an axis of rotation for the spoons or spinners that is inclined away from the head and hook portion of the lure order to urge the lure to remain submerged during trolling.

[0006] Other typical spinner lures include blades and spoons that are rotatable on one portion of a frame of a lure that is spaced apart from a second portion of the lure having an imitation fish head and hook. The blades and spoons are typically paired to rotate and/or reciprocate at different speeds in order to strike each other during rotation underwater, with resulting production of clicking or chattering sounds that are intended to attract fish. An additional type of spinner lure includes a spinner portion that spins adjacent to a fish head element and hook. The spinner lure can include a plurality of spinners and/or spoons that are stacked proximal of each other for spinning in synchronized movement during passage of the spinner lure underwater. Each prior spinner lure typically includes the axis of the spinner portion being angled in relation to the axis of the portion having a fish head element and hook, in order to induce the spinner lure to travel deep within the water or to travel upwards toward the water surface during trolling and recovery of the lure for recasting. If the spinner lure is allowed to free fall in

the water with the hook oriented downwards from the water surface, the plurality of spinners and/or spoons can become entangled with the fish head element and hook, or can become tangled with a plurality of strands that envelop the hook.

[0007] A fishing lure is needed that is configured to maintain a bait head and hook apart from an adjacently oriented blade that is readily rotated during trolling to produce sound regardless of whether trolling occurs on the water surface or underneath the water surface. Further, a fishing lure is needed including a bait head, hook, and an adjacent blade portion having clappers pivotably attached thereon, with the clappers producing sound and water turbulence during rotation of the blade induced by water flowing across the opposed winged portions of the blade during trolling. In addition, a fishing lure is needed having a bait head portion that includes a tapered shape that induces lift for the bait head to move through the water with an adjacently positioned blade rotating at the water surface while the bait head portion and hook remain below the water surface in a strike zone for a fish to attack when attracted to the sound and water turbulence created by the blade rotating at or below the water surface.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] According to one embodiment of the present invention, a fishing lure is provided which generates movement and sounds during trolling. The fishing lure includes a primary wire leg having a forward segment configured for attachment to a fishing line, and having a bait segment disposed distal of the forward segment, with the bait segment having a body extending to a trailing end from which a fish hook extends. The fishing lure also includes a secondary wire leg having a leading segment extended from the forward segment of the primary

wire leg, with the secondary wire leg having a length disposed a selected distance apart from the primary wire leg.

[0009] A blade is rotatably mounted on the secondary wire leg to freely rotate during trolling during fishing. The blade includes opposed surfaces having first and second end segments angled in opposed directions to facilitate rotation of the blade during trolling. A clapper is pivotably attached on at least one of the opposed surfaces of the blade. The clapper is freely pivoted during rotation of the blade during trolling proximal of a water surface, with each rotation of the blade positioning the opposed blade surfaces for contacting the water surface, and thereby pivoting the clapper against one of the blade surfaces and further contacting of the clapper with the water surface resulting in creation of water turbulence and sound for attracting fish to strike the fish hook extended from the bait segment.

[0010] The bait segment is spaced apart and is disposed distal of the blade first and second end segments to negate contact during rotation of the blade during trolling. The bait segment includes an elongated head portion having a narrow leading end expanding to an enlarged mid-portion having an oval cross-section. The enlarged mid-portion of the bait segment creates lift upwards through the water when the fishing line is pulled during rapid trolling or to set the hook in a fish. The enlarged mid-portion tapers to a trailing end from which the fish hook shaft extends. A fish hook barbed end is curved forwardly toward the bait segment and is positioned behind the rotatable blade, thereby negating contact with the pivotable clapper and the blade end segment during blade rotation.

[0011] Another embodiment for a fishing lure providing movement and sound during trolling includes a primary wire leg having a forward segment configured for attachment to a fishing line, and having a bait segment disposed distal of the forward segment. The bait segment includes a body extending to a trailing end from which a fish hook extends. A secondary wire leg includes a leading segment extended laterally from the forward segment of the primary wire leg, with the secondary wire leg having a length disposed a selected distance apart from the primary wire leg. A blade is rotatably mounted on the secondary wire leg, and the blade includes opposed surfaces having first and second end segments angled in opposed directions to facilitate rotation of the blade during trolling. At least two clappers are pivotably attached in diametrically opposed positions on the opposed surfaces of the blade. Each clapper pivots independently during rotation of the blade. During trolling proximal of a water surface, each rotation of the blade positions the opposed blade surfaces for contacting the water surface with pivoting of each clapper against respective blade surfaces and further contacting of the clappers with the water surface resulting in creation of water turbulence and sound for attracting fish to strike the fish hook extended from the bait segment.

[0012] During rapid trolling proximal of the water surface, the opposed surfaces of the blade are rapidly exposed above the water surface. The blade rotational action will swing each respective clapper pivotable above the water surface resulting in water turbulence and sound created for attraction of fish to the bait segment. Further, the blade rotational action churns the water surface while the rotational action swings each clapper periodically forces each flanged side under the water surface during trolling, with generation of air bubbles and

turbulence under water. Each swinging clapper generates air bubbles and other sounds during trolling near the water surface, thereby attracting a fish to strike on the fish hook barbed end. The lure moves through the water with rotational motions and sounds that mimic a small fish or an insect floundering near the water surface with resulting attraction of larger fish and increased frequency of fish strikes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] The above-mentioned features of the invention will become more clearly understood from the following detailed description of the invention read together with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of a fishing lure of the present invention, illustrating a rotatable blade positioned adjacent and spaced apart from a bait segment;

Figure 2A is a rear perspective view of the rotatable blade of Figure 1;

Figure 2B is a front view of the rotatable blade of Figure 1, illustrating the rotation movement of the blade and the pivoting movement of each clapper on diametrically opposed surfaces of the blade;

Figure 3 is a side exploded view of Figure 2A, illustrating the clappers, attachment loops on diametrically opposed sides of the blade, and front and rear spacers for positioning the blade on the secondary wire leg of the lure;

Figure 4 is a section view along the axis of the bait segment of Figure 1, illustrating a weight disposed within the bait segment; and

Figure 5 is a front view of Figure 1, illustrating the lure during trolling proximal of the water surface, with one angled segment of the blade rotated out of the water and one clapper extended above the water surface; and

Figure 6 is a side perspective view of the fishing lure of the present invention during trolling through water with the vegetation parted by the rotatable blade for minimizing snagging of the bait segment and fish hook.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0014] One embodiment of a fishing lure **10** is illustrated in Figure 1 in a stationary embodiment, and is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 during use proximal of a water surface **54** of a body of water. The fishing lure **10** includes a primary wire leg **12** having a bait segment **42** affixed thereon. The bait segment **42** includes a trailing end having a fish hook **16** extended distally therefrom. The fishing lure **10** also includes a secondary wire leg **20** positioned adjacent to the primary wire leg **12**. The secondary wire leg **20** supports a rotatable blade **22** for generation of sound during trolling. The wire legs **12**, **20** are composed of stiff but bendable wires that are bent in a parallel alignment for positioning the bait head **42** adjacent to, and offset behind, the rotatable blade **22**. The wire legs **12**, **20** are joined at respective first, leading ends **12'**, **20'** by a wire segment **18** of a selected length **18'** to maintain the wire legs **12**, **20** apart during trolling to allow the blade **22** to freely rotate **52** without contacting the bait head **42** (see Figs. 2B, 5 and 6).

[0015] The bait head **42** is positioned on the primary wire leg **12** and is maintained apart from the blade **22** by the selected width **18'** of about one inch to

about one and a half inches apart from the rotational axis **20'"** of the blade **22**. The selected distance **18'** between wire legs **12, 20** is maintained as the selected width of separation due to each wire leg being composed of a wire material that is generally rigid in the length dimension but is minimally bendable laterally, thereby allowing deflection of each wire leg **12, 20** and respective blade **22** and bait head **42** off and away from potential snags and obstructions in the water during trolling. The primary wire leg **12** is extended distally from an angled junction **14** having at least one generally rigid loop **14'** to which a fishing line **14"** is readily attachable. The primary wire leg extends a first wire length to a distal end **12"** from which a fish hook shaft **16'** extends to a curved barb end **16"** (see Figs. 1 and 4). The secondary wire leg **20** is extended distally from the wire segment **18** for a second wire length of about two inches to about two and a half inches. The primary wire leg **12** has a first wire length of about four inches to about five inches. During rapid trolling, the selected distance **18'** can partially diminish in width separation between the wire legs **12, 20** due to minimal bending laterally of each wire leg.

[0016] The bait head **42** is disposed on the primary wire leg **12** and includes an elongated shape having an inner arcuate side **42'** and an outer arcuate side **42"** extending from a narrow leading end **44** (see Fig. 4). The bait head **42** expands to an enlarged mid-portion **46**, and tapers to a narrow distal or trailing end **50** proximal of the distal end **12"** of the primary wire leg **12**. The leading end **44** includes an initial width of about 1/8 inch to about 1/4 inch, and an initial depth of about 1/4 inch. When viewed from the front, the enlarged mid-portion **46** includes a substantially oval cross-section (see Fig. 5), with the outer and inner arcuate sides being separated by a width **46'** of about 3/8 inch to about ½ inch.

The mid-portion **46** includes a depth **46"** of about 3/4 inch. One skilled in the art will recognize that alternate shapes for the front and rear tapered portions of the bait head **42**, and alternate width and depth dimensions of the bait head **42** can be provided without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0017] As illustrated in Figure 5, the oval cross-section of the enlarged mid-portion **46** preferably disposes the inner arcuate side **42'** oriented towards the rotatable blade **22**. The hook barbed end **16"** is curved laterally inward toward the inner arcuate side **42'** of the bait head **42**, and is curved forwardly toward the second end **20"** of the secondary wire leg **20**. The hook barbed end **16"** is generally positioned to be proximally aligned **72** behind the blade axis of rotation **20'"**. The outer arcuate side **42"** and the oval cross-section of the bait head mid-portion **46**, plus the rotatable blade **22** positioned forward of the barbed end **16"**, will assist in deflecting obstructions from snagging the hook barbed end **16"** during trolling. Therefore, the shape of the bait head **42** and the positioning of the hook barbed end **16"** provides a built-in weed deflector configuration without having to attach a wire weed guard proximal of the hook barbed end **16"**. In one embodiment of the bait head **42**, the hook shaft **16'** and the hook barbed end **16"** can be surrounded by a skirt **16'"** of flexible filaments attached to the head portion distal end **12"** in order to conceal from view the hook barbed end **16"** during trolling by the skirt **16'"** of flexible filaments trailing behind the bait head **42**. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4, the bait head **42** is composed of a generally firm material composed of a plastic, an epoxy resin, a polymer, or a ceramic material, and includes a weight **48** imbedded within. The outer surface of the bait head **42** can be coated with a pliable material such as plastic or rubber,

and is marked and colored in numerous configurations to resemble a fish head with eyes oriented proximal of the tapered leading end **44**. One skilled in the art will recognize that the bait segment can include additional weights removably positionable on the forward end **44**, or distal end **50** of the bait head **42**, in addition to the weight **48** imbedded therein, in order to influence the depth of trolling of the bait head **42**.

[0018] The configuration of the blade **22** and the associated components attached thereto is illustrated in Figures 2A, 2B, 3 and 4. The shape of the blade **22** includes a generally triangular configuration having a narrow first end junction **24** and a broad base or trailing end **38**. Each end junction **24**, **38** includes an angled junction having respective holes **24'**, **38'** therein for extension therethrough of the secondary wire leg **20**. Spacers such as beads **26**, **26'** are positioned between the leading end **20'** of the secondary wire leg and the first end junction **24**, to facilitate blade rotation **52**. In addition, rotational spacer **38"** is positioned between the second end **20"** of the secondary wire leg and the second end junction **38** to facilitate blade rotation **52**. The blade **22** is readily rotated about an axis of rotation **20'"** that is co-axially aligned with the secondary wire leg **20**. The blade **22** includes a front surface having first and second front sections **22'**, **22"** bisected by the secondary wire leg **20** and the axis of rotation **20'"**. An opposed back surface includes a first back section **22'"** opposed from the front surface section **22'**, and a second back surface **22""** opposed from the front surface section **22"**. Each surface section has a pair of holes **36**, **36'** therein, with each pair disposed about mid-distance between the respective first and second angled side edges of the blade **22** and the axis of rotation **20'"**. The blade trailing end **38** is bent into

two end curved surfaces angled in opposed directions on opposed sides of the axis of rotation **20'"**. A first angled segment **28** forms a curved extension of the second front section **22'**. A second angled segment **30** forms a curved extension of the second back surface **22""**, and is curved in an opposed direction from the first angled segment **28**. The blade **22** is readily rotated about the axis of rotation **20'"** when water is moved past each opposed curved surface of first angled segment **28** and second angled segment **30** during trolling. During passage **66** near the water surface **54**, the rotating blade **22** will repetitively expose front sections **22'**, **22"** and first angled segment **28** to the air/water surface **54** (see Fig. 5), and will repetitively expose back sections **22'"**, **22""** and second angled segment **30** to the air/water surface **54**, with resulting creation of water turbulence and sound as the opposed blade surfaces **22'**, **22"** and **22'"**, **22""** are exposed to and contact the water surface **54**.

[0019] In order to improve attraction of fish for striking the bait head **42**, an increase in water turbulence and sound **60** is generated by the rotating blade **22** having a sound generator pivotably attached to at least one blade surface. One embodiment for the sound generator includes a first clapper **32** and a second clapper **32'** pivotably attached to diametrically opposed blade surfaces as illustrated in Figures 1, 2B, 3 and 5. The first clapper **32** includes a base end having a wire loop that is pivotably connected to an attachment wire **34** threaded through a pair of holes **36** in a mid-portion of the first half **22"** of the blade first surface. The second clapper **32'** is connected in a similar manner, with a base end having a wire loop that is pivotably connected to an attachment wire **34'** threaded through a pair of holes **36'** in a mid-portion of the first back section **22'"** of the

blade second surface. In one embodiment, each respective clapper **32**, **32'** is diametrically opposed and is independently pivotable and extended from opposed surfaces **22"**, **22'"** to allow the blade **22** to rotate **52** in a balanced manner during movement **66** under water and during movement and exposure of the blade surfaces at the water surface **54**.

[0020] As illustrated in Figures 1, 2B, 5 and 6, each respective clapper **32**, **32'** is pivotable in at least two directions, including laterally **40** relative to the blade axis of rotation **20'"**, longitudinally **56**, and outwardly **58** from each opposed surface **22"**, **22'"**. As illustrated in Figure 5, during blade rotation **52** proximal of the water surface **54**, each respective opposed blade surface **22"**, **22'"** is intermittently exposed at the water surface, and each pivotable clapper **32**, **32'** is pivoted **58** above the water surface **54** with generation of water droplets **64**, sounds **60**, and surface water turbulence as each clapper **32**, **32'** contacts each respective opposed blade surface **22"**, **22'"**. As each clapper **32**, **32'** and opposed blade surface **22"**, **22'"** is rotated under the water surface **54**, a bubble trail **62** is generated with increased underwater turbulence and associated sounds transmitted underwater, thereby attracting fish to investigate the sounds **60** and to strike the fish hook **16** extending from the distal end of the bait head **42**.

[0021] One skilled in the art will recognize that the fishing lure **10** of the present invention is utilized for trolling proximal of the water surface **54** (see Fig. 5), or is utilized for deep water trolling (see Fig. 6). In one alternative, the sound generator can include one clapper pivotably attached on one blade surface, or two clappers pivotably attached on one blade surface at about a mid-portion of the blade surface. In an alternative embodiment, three or four clappers can be

attached on each of the surfaces **22'**, **22"**, **22'"**, **22""** of the front and back blade surfaces, thereby increasing water turbulence and generation of sounds **60** when trolling proximal of the water surface. During blade rotation **52**, each of the clappers will generate at least one bubble trail **62** during trolling proximal of the water surface **54**.

[0022] From the foregoing description, it will be recognized by those skilled in the art that a unique fishing lure **10** is provided that generates rotational movement **52** of a blade **22** for creation of water turbulence and generates sound utilizing opposed pivotably connected clappers **32**, **32'** during trolling for attraction of fish and increased strikes on a bait segment **42** of the fishing lure **10** without additional lure attachments such as weed guards. Further, the pivotably connected clappers **32**, **32'** are disposed in diametrically opposed relationship on the rotatable blade **22**, which is maintained a spaced-apart distance **18'** apart from the bait segment **42** and the barbed hook end **16"** to effectively negate entanglement of the clappers **32**, **32'** and rotatable blade **22** with the bait segment **42** during trolling underwater or trolling at the water surface **54**.

[0023] While the present invention has been illustrated by description of several embodiments and while the illustrated embodiments have been described in considerable detail, it is not the intention of the applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader aspects is therefore not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and methods, and illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without departing from

the spirit or scope of applicant's general inventive concept.